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Inside Wallops

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Employees Select Mission 2000 Logo



Above is the winner of the Wallops Mission 2000 logo contest selected by employees on Oct. 29. The winning entry by Randy Carrier (CSC) was selected among 17 entrees from Wallops employees. Other semifinalist submissions were by Dave Wilcox (Code 823), Pete Bradfield (Code 831), and Debbie Watson and Karon Eichelberger (CBSI). Thanks to everyone who submitted designs and participated in the voting.

Mars Global Surveyor to Resume Aerobraking

After a two-week hiatus, NASA's Mars Global Surveyor flight team will resume lowering the spacecraft's orbit around Mars beginning Nov. 7. The effort will proceed at a more gradual pace than before, which will extend the mission's aerobraking phase by several months, and will change Global Surveyor's final science mapping orbit.

The decision to resume aerobraking came after intensive engineering analysis, computer simulations and tests with representative hardware to characterize the current condition of one of the spacecraft's two solar panels, which began to flex more than expected during the spacecraft's lowest dip into the Martian atmosphere on Oct. 6.

Under normal circumstances, the spacecraft's two 11-foot-long (3.5 meter) solar panels should remain fixed and nearly motionless during each aerobraking pass through the upper atmosphere of Mars. One of the panels, which did not fully deploy and latch after launch, moved past

its latched position and has shown slight movement during the spacecraft's last three closest approaches to the Martian surface.

The spacecraft's scientific instruments have performed flawlessly and continue to return new information about Martian magnetic properties, its atmosphere, surface features, temperatures and mineralogy since entering orbit around the red planet on Sept. 11.

The spacecraft is currently in a 35-hour elliptical orbit which brings it 107 miles above the surface of Mars at its closest approach to the planet. The operations team at JPL and Lockheed Martin Astronautics, Denver, CO, will begin to reduce that orbit using a more moderate level of aerobraking that will slowly bring the spacecraft into the desired nearly circular mapping orbit.

Additional information about the mission is available at:
<http://www.jpl.nasa.gov/marsnews>
or <http://mars.jpl.nasa.gov>.

NASA Releases Fourth Strategic Plan

NASA has released the fourth installment of its yearly strategic plan with a new twist. This year's plan is the first to comply with the Government Performance and Results Act.

NASA's strategic plan shows a renewed focus on scientific research and the development and application of new cutting-edge technologies.

The Government Performance and Results Act directs that agencies develop a customer-focused strategic plan, align agency activities with concrete missions and goals, manage and measure results to justify appropriations and authorizations, and design budgets that reflect strategic missions.

Copies of the new strategic plan are available on the web at the following URL:

<http://www.hq.nasa.gov/office/nsp/>

Goddard's Employee Internet Homepage Available Nov. 3

In response to the Center Director's desire to enhance communications, a secured web site just for Goddard employees has been developed.

The web page will premiere on Nov. 3. It includes such exciting features as G-Whiz (a browse feature for Goddard services, organizations and web sites). Employees can browse the Goddard phone book in an easy to reference format. Be sure to bookmark the address and use it daily. The URL is: <http://internal.gsfc.nasa.gov>

Marshall Center Director to Retire

Dr. Wayne Littles, director of the Marshall Space Flight Center, has announced that he will retire from NASA on Jan. 3, 1998. NASA is proceeding with the search for a successor.

Littles joined NASA and Marshall in 1967, moving rapidly through its ranks. He served as director of Marshall's Science and Engineering Directorate and was named deputy director of Marshall in 1989. In 1994, Littles was assigned to NASA Headquarters as Chief Engineer. Later that year he was named NASA Associate Administrator for Space Flight

Weather the Winter

The weather outside is frightful. Suddenly your electric power goes off. A glance out the window tells you the whole neighborhood is without lights. What should you do until the power is restored?

A battery-powered radio will keep you posted on the seriousness of the situation during a major outage. Although telephone service is not usually affected by electrical failure, use the phone only to report a dangerous situation.

If the power failure occurs at night, the first problem is to avoid falls and other mishaps. Every home should have a flash-light or battery powered lantern.

Electric companies recommend that you turn off major appliances to avoid a circuit overload when the power is restored. However, leave one light on to signal when the power comes back on. Avoid opening and closing the refrigerator and freezer. In a fully loaded freezer, food can remain frozen for 36-48 hours. Food will last almost as long in a refrigerator. But each opening of the door robs you of several hours' worth of cold. Put some food essentials in a picnic cooler, then open the cooler only when necessary.

Dress appropriately. Layers of clothing are more effective. Use several lightweight blankets rather than one very heavy blanket for the most warmth while sleeping and wear a nightcap!

Upcoming Training

***Oral Presentation Strategies
(At WFF)
Nov. 12-14, 1997
8:30-4:30
Center-funded***

This three-day experiential workshop is open to a maximum of 12 people whose duties include giving oral briefings and formal reports. The course builds effective public speaking skills and culminates in the video-taping of giving short, prepared presentations by participants. (A required course for PIPs.) Modules include:

- Researching and organizing of materials;
- Analyzing and adapting materials to diverse audiences;
- Dealing with stage fright;
- Arguing persuasively;
- Managing stance and posture; and
- Using visual aids effectively.

For further information, contact Sherry Kleckner, x1204 or by Email: **Sherry.W.Kleckner.1@gsfc.nasa.gov**



Halloween was quite a day at Wallops. Word got out that Superman would be here. Sandy (top) thought we were clowning around and settled on the couch to wait. Like any good soldier, Doreen (left) snapped to attention when he arrived. Linda, (bottom left) was ahead of Superman by a leg. Then he arrived by way of the elevator, (bottom). Jan says flying around Wallops just isn't as easy as it used to be.



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